

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 20, 2004 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 2-6 and 13 are cancelled. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17 and 18 are amended. Claim 25 has been added. Claims 1, 7-12 and 14-25 are pending and submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 1, 7-12 and 14-18

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 3, 7-12 and 14-18 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the relevant limitations of claims 2 and 3 and is now believed to be in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 7, 10, 14, 17 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form and are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition to including certain subject matter from intervening dependent claims, these new independent claims have been amended to improve readability and, therefore, do not necessarily correspond in scope to the originally filed versions of the corresponding dependent claims.

Rejection of Claims 19-24

Claims 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,421 (Husby). The rejection should be withdrawn because Husby fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, Husby fails to disclose a carriage comprising "an opening adapted to receive the webbing of the seat belt, wherein said opening cooperates with a corresponding opening in said first portion of the seat belt tension sensor" as called for in claim 19. The Examiner refers to element 41 of Husby as corresponding to the claimed "carriage." Husby discloses that element 41 are "upwardly facing stops" located on a slide 40. Clearly the stops 41 do not anticipate the claimed "carriage." Furthermore, even if the slide 40 disclosed by Husby were considered to be a "carriage", the disclosure of Husby would still be deficient, because the slide 40 fails to disclose "sn opening adapted to receive the webbing of the seat belt." In the Office Action, the Examiner contends cites Figure 3 of Husby to support his position. However, Fig. 3 of Husby fails to disclose an opening in a carriage. Fig. 3 of Husby merely discloses a slide 40 that is retained in an opening in a bracket plate 22. The slide 40

is "trough-like" and merely provides a surface around which the seat is looped. (Husby at col. 3, lines 28-33). The slide 40 does not include an opening. Thus, the disclosure of Husby is clearly deficient and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further by way of example, Husby fails to disclose a carriage comprising "a protrusion extending from said carriage ... and spanning across said opening in said first portion of the seat belt tension sensor." The Examiner contends that a protrusion is shown in Fig. 2 of Husby.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-24 depend from claim 19 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

New Claim 25


New claim 25 includes limitations similar to claim 3, which was identified as containing allowable subject matter, and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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